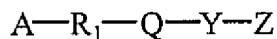


**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 23 of page 9 to read as follows:

An inventive conjugating agent has the general formula:



where  $R_1$  is a cholesterol derivative; a  $C_8$ - $C_{24}$  alkyl;  $C_8$ - $C_{24}$  heteroatom substituted alkyl wherein the heteroatom is O, N or S; where A is a hydrophilic moiety A that illustratively includes  $C_0$ - $C_4$  alkyl-hydroxy, -substituted amino, -quaternary amino, -sulfonate, -phosphonate, and -carboxylate; and targeting ligand; where the targeting ligand includes amino acids, hormones, antibodies, cell adhesion molecules, folate, polypeptides, vitamins, saccharides, transferrin, drugs, and neurotransmitters; where Q is sulfur, a secondary amine, or oxygen; where Y is a linker peptide having a negative, neutral, or positive charge; and where Z is a polyionic peptide. Specific examples of inventive cholesterol derivatives illustratively include cholestanol, coprostanol, cholic acid, glycocholic acid, ~~ursodeoxycholic acid~~, chenodeoxycholic acid, desoxycholic acid, glycochenodeoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid, and taurochenodeoxycholic acid. Specific examples of  $C_8$ - $C_{24}$  heteroatom substituted alkyls are 13-hydroxyl tridecanoic acid; 1,12 dodecane diol; and 1,12 dodecanediamine.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 8 to read as follows:

Alternatively, A is a targeting ligand. A targeting ligand according to the present invention is any molecule which binds to specific types of cells. A targeting ligand may be any type of molecule having a corresponding cellular receptor. Ideally, a targeting ligand is recognized by a cellular receptor and expressed only on a specific type of cell thereby affording selectivity. Examples of targeting ligands which are operative herein include amino acids,

hormones, antibodies, cell adhesion molecules, folate, polypeptides, vitamins, saccharides, transferring  $\text{[[g]]}$ , drugs, and neurotransmitters. The 12-residue membrane-translocating peptide (Ala-Ala-Val-Leu-Leu-Pro-Val-Leu-Leu-Ala-Ala-Pro) (SEQ ID NO: 1) is exemplary of a target ligand form of  $\text{[[R_+]]}$  A. The targeting ligand operative to either target, increase adsorption, internalization or nuclear localization of the inventive compound.